

Chualar

Union Elementary School District

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May 18, 2000

1999 Monterey County Civil Grand Jury
P. O. Box 414
Salinas, CA 93902

RE: Required Response to *Final Report*

Dear Grand Jury:

Please find below the Chualar Union Elementary School District's response to each of the four remarks from the 1999 Monterey County CIA Grand Jury's "Comparison Study of School Districts" as found in their *Final Report*.

- #1: Results of the County school districts' scores In Statewide Testing and Reporting (STAR) program. The District agrees Monterey County STAR scores are low in comparison to statewide scores.

Response to Recommendation: The Grand Jury's recommendation does not appear to be educationally sound. The District is, however, committed to use professional expertise in meeting the needs of its students and to achieve higher scores each year.

- #2: High percentage of teachers not fully certificated employed in the County school district. The District agrees this is common as a result of the statewide teacher shortage. This district in particular experiences extreme shortages due to competition with larger, richer, districts of close proximity.

Response to Recommendation: The Chualar Union Elementary School District actively seeks fully credentialled teachers for vacant positions. In addition and to cope with reality, the District has a partnership with CSUMB for placing intern teachers. These interns, though not fully credentialled, are fully trained and capable of filling the State-created shortfall until they become fully credentialled. The District participates heavily in staff development for all its teachers.

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- #3: Compensation to School Board Members. The District has no compensation for its school board members. The District does provide health Insurance for Its board members.

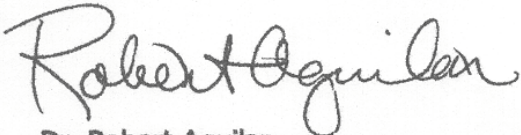
Response to Recommendation: The District takes exception to comparing cost per student with disproportionately sized school districts. State governance requirements for small districts is the same as for large. However, the District will encourage the Board to search its collective conscience.

- #4: Number of, and school districts' costs associated with, criminal acts committed on school grounds. Chualar Union Elementary School District has been the victim of property crime and vandalism. We request a permanently manned substation be established immediately.

Response to Recommendation: The District takes exception to comparing cost per student with disproportionately sized school districts. The District agrees measures must be in place to minimize both property and violent crimes. The District participates aggressively with other school and State agencies in programs to reduce crime and protect people and property.

The Chualar Union Elementary School District would like to take this opportunity to thank the Grand Jury for Its Interest In public schools and efforts in their behalf.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Robert Aguilar". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Robert" and last name "Aguilar" clearly distinguishable.

Dr. Robert Aguilar
Interim Superintendent